

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:205
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2002
USE OF FERTILIZERS INSECTICIDES
HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that the farmers are using fertilizers and insecticides in excess quantity than required;
- (b) if so, whether any organised efforts are being made to educate the farmers about the hazards caused by excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides and also about the optimum utilisation of ground water and other 'production enhancing resources'; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 205 DUE FOR REPLY ON 29TH JULY, 2002.

(a) to (c): The average consumption of plant nutrients in India of fertilizers is only 92 kg/ha. during 2001-2002. This level of consumption is not considered excessive. Also with promotion of Integrated Pest Management, the pesticides consumption has come down from 61357 metric tonnes (Technical Grade) during 1994-95 to 43584 metric tonnes during 2000-01 and is not considered excessive. However, some of the important programmes in this regard are:-

(i) Soil Test based balanced and integrated use of chemical fertilizers, organic manures and bio-fertilizers for achieving optimum results in a cost effective manner is being encouraged.

(ii) The concept of organic farming in the country for use of fertilizer and pesticide- free farming system with the assistance of organic sources of nutrients like organic manures, rural/urban compost, green manure, bio-fertilizers, and also use of mechanical/natural means of controlling weeds/pests including bio- pesticides and bio-agents etc. is being promoted.

(iii) Financial support is given to decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers so as to increase their consumption and thereby bring balance in NPK consumption.

(iv) Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is being promoted to impart knowledge to farmers about the hazardous effects of insecticides and to adopt pest management practices providing mechanical, biological and need-based use of pesticides. Farmers are provided training on safe and judicious use of pesticides by organizing Farmers' Field Schools.

(v) Farmers are being trained on judicious and timely application of fertilizers and insecticides through the mechanism like pre-seasonal training, field demonstrations, Kisan melas, etc. by SAUs, State Agriculture Department, KVK & ICAR Institutes, etc.

(vi) For optimum utilization of groundwater a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'OnFarm Water Management on Increasing Crop Production in Eastern India' has been launched during 2001-02 to increase the production and productivity of rice and to adopt diversified agricultural activities.

(vii) For increasing the water use efficiency, the sprinkler and drip irrigation systems are being promoted.

(viii) For the conservation of rainwater and optimization of soil and water resources in a sustainable and cost effective manner, the integrated watershed Development Project is being implemented for Rainfed areas.

